



MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1954





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To the Chairman and Members
of the
Melford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Melford Rural District for the year 1954.

It will be noted that during the year the population rose by 50. This figure is not entirely the result of births being in excess of deaths. The number of deaths from Cancer rose sharply but only 1 of the total 26 was of the lung type. No deaths resulted from the Notifiable Diseases, although there was a sharp epidemic of Whooping Cough during the winter months.

Progress was made with the sewerage scheme, and it is gratifying to see the time approaching when the depressing and worrying conditions in Long Melford are rectified.

I wish to thank the chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement during the year. The Clerk of the Council, Mr. J. A. Shaw, the Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. E. Burrows, and the Water Engineer, Mr. H. J. Harrington, have given willing assistance for which I am most grateful.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

Area of the District	47,270 acres
Rateable Value	(£48,134) £49,337
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (£200 7s. 2d.)	£203 9s. 5d.
Number of inhabited houses	(4208)*4344
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	(12,930) 12980

* This figure includes Hutment accommodation

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

				Male		Female		Total
Legitimate				(94) 82		(89) 84		(183) 166
Illegitimate				(3) 5		(8) 4		(11) 9
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals ...				(97) 87		(97) 88		(194) 175

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) ...	(15.0)	13.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	(15.45)	13.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(15.5)	15.2
Illegitimate Birth Rate... ..	(5.6%)	5.1%

Still Births :

				Male		Female		Total
Legitimate				(2) 1		(0) 1		(2) 2
Illegitimate				(—) —		(—) —		(—) —
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals ...				(2) 1		(0) 1		(2) 2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	(0.15)	0.15
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)... ..	(0.35)	0.35

Deaths :

Deaths.	Male	Female	Total		
	(86) 88	(65) 70	(151) 158		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)			(11.68)	13.5	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)			(9.11)	13.6	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)			(11.4)	11.3	
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...					Nil.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

				Male		Female		Total	
Legitimate	...	...	...	(2)	0	(0)	2	(2)	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	(0)	0	(2)	0	(2)	0
Totals				(2)	0	(2)	2	(4)	2

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	(20.6)	11.4
(b) All Infants England and Wales	...	...	...	(26.8)	24.0

Death of Infants under four weeks of age :

				Male		Female		Total	
Legitimate	...	...	...	(2)	0	(—)	2	(2)	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	(—)	—	(1)	—	(1)	0
Totals				(2)	0	(1)	2	(3)	2

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease				Male		Female		Total	
Measles	...	...	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...
Influenza	...	...	...	(3)	0	...	(2)	0	...
Cancer (all types)	...	...	...	(7)	11	...	(3)	15	...
Vascular Lesions									
of the nervous system				(10)	12	...	(14)	15	...
Heart Disease (all forms)	...	...	...	(24)	31	...	(29)	23	...
Diabetes	...	...	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	1	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	(2)	0	...	(2)	0	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	(2)	4	...	(0)	0	...
Ulcer of Stomach or									
Duodenum				(1)	2	...	(0)	0	...
Nephritis	...	...	...	(2)	3	...	(1)	1	...
Accidents									
(not motor vehicles)				(4)	3	...	(1)	1	...
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	...	...	...	(1)	1	...	(0)	0	...
Suicide	...	...	...	(3)	1	...	(0)	0	...
Other defined and									
ill-defined diseases				(27)	18	...	(13)	14	...
Total				(86)	86		(65)	70	
								(151)	156

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.
Senior Sanitary Inspector, whole time, J. A. E. Burrows,
Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, whole time, I. V. Hazell
Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

2. Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

3. Nursing in the Home

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provide five Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Bures, Nayland and Gt. Waldingfield.

5. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given reports on the analysis of the water in the area.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H. J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer :

During the year ended 31st March, 1955, the Public Water Supplies in the Council's area have been satisfactory and no shortage of water was experienced from any of the works, although with additional connections being made and more properties served the Great Cornard Pumping Station is being worked to capacity during the Summer months.

A new section of 4in. main was laid from Gt. Cornard Tye via Sackers Green to Newton Green, all properties on this new section are connected to the main supply.

At the end of March, 1955, 3,766 properties were receiving a main water supply, 2,246 having a Laid On supply and 1,520 houses are served by Standpipes in gardens.

Below is set out detailed information relating to each Parish.

Parish			Laid-on Supplies	Standpipe Supplies	Total No. of Properties connected
Acton	...	...	54	64	118
Assington	...	...	65	39	104
Great Cornard	...	...	413	86	499
Little Cornard	...	...	43	31	74
Chilton	...	...	20	22	42
Leavenheath	...	...	43	38	81
Newton	...	...	57	38	95
Long Melford	...	...	444	325	769
Great Waldingfield	...	...	67	78	145
Little Waldingfield	...	...	51	21	72
Stoke-by-Nayland	...	...	129	79	208
Nayland	...	...	173	37	210
Alpheton	...	...	44	18	62
Boxted	...	...	25	0	25
Glemsford	...	...	191	400	591
Hartest	...	...	85	31	116
Lawshall	...	...	77	61	138
Shimpling	...	...	59	19	78
Stanstead	...	...	34	49	83
Somerton	...	...	18	15	32
Bures	...	...	154	69	223
Totals			2,246	1,520	3,766

The consumption per head per day of the Population served on the various Schemes is as follows :

Central Area Scheme—Source of Supply, Great Cornard Bore—

Serving the Parishes of Great and Little Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Great and Little Waldingfield, Newton and Leavenheath—13.30 gallons per head per day. (13.05).

Stoke-by-Nayland Scheme—

Serving the Parishes of Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland with Wissington—16.37 gallons per head per day. (11).

Northern Area Water Scheme—

Water purchased in bulk from the Thingoe Rural District Council, serving the Parishes of Glemsford, Stanstead, Boxted, Hartest, Somerton, Lawshall, Shimpling and Alpheton—13.04 gallons per head per day. (11.60).

Bures Scheme—

Serving the parish of Bures only—15.09 gallons per head per day. (12).

Figures in parentheses refer to year 1953.

None of the sources of supply tends to have Plumbo-solvent action.

Examination of Supplies.

All supplies were analysed during the year by the Council's Analyst, The Analytical Laboratory, Haywards Heath, Sussex, in accordance with the Water Abstraction Regulations, 1947, and all proved to be very satisfactory.

The total amount of water supplied during the year for domestic and non-domestic purposes was 99,277,000 gallons.

REPORT OF MR. J. A. E. BURROWS,

SURVEYOR AND SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

WATER SUPPLIES—Private.

Three sources of supply were investigated. One shallow well was found to be heavily contaminated and was closed, a supply from the Council's mains being provided.

No statutory notices were served.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Work on the provision of sewers and a disposal works for the parish of Nayland was almost completed by the end of the year and a start made on the laying of sewers in the neighbouring parish of Stoke-by-Nayland. These two parishes will drain to the same disposal works.

The remaining schemes for the parishes of Bures, Long Melford, Glemsford and Great Cornard were still in various stages of preparation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection scheme remains unchanged.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

The pressure of work on the Council Estates became so heavy that a third Cleansing Unit was ordered and came into operation in November. A total of 4,275 loads was taken from Council House Cesspools during the year.

There was also an increased demand from private houses, where 713 loads were taken from 415 properties. These properties were distributed as follows:

Acton	...	...	...	...	14
Alpheton	...	...	...	...	3
Assington	...	...	...	...	9
Boxted	..	...	...	...	4
Bures	...	...	...	...	11
Chilton	...	...	...	...	18
Glemsford	...	...	...	...	16
Great Cornard	...	...	...	...	150
Great Waldingfield	...	...	...	...	22
Hartest	...	...	...	...	10
Lawshall	...	...	...	...	7
Leavenheath	...	...	...	...	10
Little Cornard	...	...	...	...	11
Little Waldingfield	...	...	...	...	8
Long Melford	...	...	...	...	42
Nayland with Wissington	...	...	...	...	24
Newton	...	...	...	...	21
Shimpling	...	...	...	...	8
Somerton	...	...	...	...	1
Stanstead	...	...	...	...	4
Stoke-by-Nayland	...	...	...	...	22

NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTION.

A total of 1,113 pails per week are dealt with in the parishes of Long Melford, Glemsford (part), Great Cornard, Chilton (part) and Bures St. Mary. The work is carried out by a Contractor during the early hours of the morning, and judging by the absence of complaints, this arrangement seems to be more acceptable to the general public than the previous direct labour scheme operating throughout the night and using one of the Council's Cleansing Units.

NUISANCES

No statutory action was required.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

No statutory actions were taken under Sections 9 and 11.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Prior to decontrol at the end of June all slaughtering was carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Bures. The following table gives details of meat inspection during this period, and shows that approximately 90% of all animals killed received a post-mortem inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

GOVERNMENT SLAUGHTERHOUSE, BURES

January — June, 1954.

			Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	...	...	929	258	463	2713	2560
Number Inspected	...	...	926	258	390	2327	2357

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned ...		2	1	—		9	31
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...		215	80	—		26	62
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis		23.4	31.4	—		1.5	3.9

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned ...		2	2	—		—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...		60	21	—		—	47
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	...	6.7	9.3	—		—	2.0

Following the announcement that slaughtering of animals was to revert to private slaughterhouses, ten applications for the Licensing of Slaughterhouses were received. All of these were approved subject to certain works being carried out within a period of three months. At the end of this period all but two butchers had brought their premises up to the required standard. Of the remaining two, one withdrew his application and the other asked for an extension of time. This was granted, no slaughtering having taken place on the premises in the meantime. This disposal of slaughtering has obviously increased the difficulties of inspection and the following Table shows what was done during the period July to December. 97% of animals killed received a post-mortem inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERING July — December, 1954

			Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	...	...	2461	198	129	1170	2847
Number Inspected	...	...	2385	198	126	1129	2761

All Diseases except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	2	1	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	144	6	2	4	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis		6.1	3.0	3.1	0.5	0.6

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned	...	6	1	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was affected	...	155	17	—	—	42
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	6.8	9.1	—	—	1.5

At wholesale and retail shops the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:

Chicken	...	...	...	1
Beef (frozen)	...	...	...	108 lbs.
Lamb	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Pork	..	...	...	51 lbs.
Meat Products	...	...	...	22 tins
Milk Products	...	...	...	51 tins
Fish Products	...	...	...	54 tins
Fruit Products	...	...	...	49 tins
Vegetable Products		...	...	18 tins

FOOD PREMISES.

Butchers' Shops.

Eleven premises were registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages.

Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Three shops were registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the frying of fish, and one for the smoking of fish.

Sale of Ice Cream.

Twenty-eight premises were registered for the sale of ice cream under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year six samples were taken. None of the samples showed evidence of harmful contamination.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, etc.

There were fourteen persons registered as distributors in the District, and five premises (not being dairy farms) were registered as Dairies.

Eleven dealers were licensed to sell Tuberculin-Tested Milk, and ten to sell Pasteurised Milk.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council continues to employ one Rodent Operator.

SECTION G.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease Notified during Year.
CASES NOTIFIED.

		CIVILIAN.			
Disease		1954	1953	1952	1951
Scarlet Fever	...	35	29	8	5
Whooping Cough	...	137	67	36	122
Measles	...	0	358	80	5
Diphtheria	...	0	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	...	19	32	12	26
Erysipelas	...	1	6	2	1
Ophthalmia — Neonatorum	...	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	...	0	0	0	1
Puerperal Fever	...	1	0	0	0
Infective Hepatitis	...	2	1	7	1
Dysentery	...	3	10	0	3
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0	0	0	1
Food Poisoning	...	0	1	0	0

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

		SCARLET FEVER			WHOOPING COUGH		
Age in Years		M	F	Totl.	M	F	Totl.
0—1	..	—	—	—	2	3	5
1—2	..	1	1	2	4	8	12
3—4	..	5	5	10	32	28	60
5—9	..	6	9	15	29	23	52
10—14	..	4	3	7	4	4	8
15—25	..	1	1	2	—	—	—
25 and over	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		17	18	35	61	76	137

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	26	39	65	3	9	12	77
No. of cases added during the year	5	3	8	2	—	2	10
No. of cases removed during year	3	6	9	1	1	2	11
No. remaining on register at end of year	28	36	64	4	8	12	76

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 1—72 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION E.—ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938

Several cases of anthrax in livestock were notified. The disposal of the carcasses of these animals, either by deep burial in lime or by incineration, was supervised.

SECTION F.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	12	1			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	71	28	2		2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3		10			3
TOTAL		83	39	2		

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	—	—	2	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	2	—	—	2	—	60

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110 No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)
Making Wearing Apparel, etc. ...	13	1
Furniture and Upholstery ...	18	1
Fur Pulling	22	36
Box-making, etc.	34	1
		<hr/>
Total		39

SECTION G.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

